



# STATE SENATOR **Wayne Kuipers**

## 30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



### **Senator Kuipers Announces Plans to Strengthen Michigan's Rural Economy**

Senator Kuipers, along with other legislators, unveiled a plan that would diversify Michigan's economy through a series of initiatives aimed at promoting economic growth in the state's rural areas. The proposal addresses three key areas vital to promoting rural economic growth:

- Helping rural residents through job-training and innovation.
- Developing a new rural economy and infrastructure.
- Reducing the cost of doing business and protecting the environment.

Rural businesses have difficulty attracting and retaining qualified workers. These businesses are often inhibited by burdensome governmental rules and regulations, and these proposals seek to correct these roadblocks. The plan was unveiled Monday (2-14-05) at a press conference in Hart.

### **Restricting Pseudoephedrine Purchases**

Legislation has been introduced that would require all products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as the sole active ingredient to be kept behind a counter where the public is not permitted. Senate Bill 189 would also require a person buying the medication to show valid identification as well as sign a log book indicating the amount purchased. However, Senate Bill 189 does allow for medicine that contains ephedrine or pseudoephedrine **in addition to** other active ingredients to be exempt from the new rule. Persons who violate the law or produce fake identification would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of not more than two years or a fine of not more than \$2,000, or both.

### **Spyware**

Legislation making it a crime to install software that tracks Internet users' activity without their consent passed a Senate committee Wednesday (2-16-05). If signed into law, the bills would protect consumers from "spyware," which can monitor Web-based information and prompt pop-up advertisements. Violators would be subject to either a misdemeanor or felony charge, depending on the severity of the violation, punishable by a fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000 or imprisonment for 93 days to four years. Senate Bills 53, 54 and 151 will now go before the full Senate for consideration.

### **False Academic Diplomas**

This week the Senate Education Committee passed Senate Bill 136. This bill would prohibit a person from knowingly manufacturing or issuing a false academic degree or diploma. Under this legislation a person who uses a false degree to obtain employment may also face penalties.

Senate Bill 136 will now be presented to the full Senate for consideration.